

THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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THE ADVERTISER'S SEMI-WEEKLY

Status of Filipinos In Hawaii

FROM every view point the present uncertainty as to the national and international status of the Filipinos in Hawaii is most deplorable.

The facts are as follows:

About eighteen thousand Filipinos are now resident in this Territory. They have come with the knowledge and specific approval of the governments at Washington, Manila and Honolulu.

The war department is extremely desirous of having a strong national guard force in Hawaii, and in response thereto the territorial government has within the past year or so, recruited the guard up from one to four regiments, numbering nearly five thousand men and approximately 260 officers.

It was soon found that many Filipinos were desirous of joining the guard. They are good soldier material, and the suggestion met with the hearty approval of the war department; in accordance with which some two thousand Filipinos were enlisted, they now forming nearly one-half the enlisted force. These Filipino companies were formally recognized by the war department, and partial equipment issued to them.

At this stage the point was raised that in order to be a member of the national guard, a person must be an American citizen, or have taken out first papers. The law was so vague that at first the department ruled that the Filipinos were eligible to join the guard. Later it was ruled that they were not technically citizens, although belonging to the United States; and that under the naturalization law they were not eligible to become naturalized.

Next in order, a Filipino applied for naturalization before the federal court in Honolulu. Judge Clemons decided that he was eligible, and issued first papers to him.

On this showing approximately 750 Filipino members of the guard have taken out their first papers; the war department has recognized them and they have, in large part, received their equipment of guns, uniform, etc.

Last Saturday another act in this military drama was placed on the stage. Judge Vaughan, a newly appointed federal judge, rendered a decision on the application of another Filipino, under the same circumstances incident to the application to Judge Clemons, and has arrived at a conclusion exactly opposite to that reached by the latter. In other words, Judge Vaughan decides that a Filipino is not eligible to become naturalized.

The corollary of this is that a Filipino is not eligible to be a member of the national guard.

A curious fact, bearing upon the situation, is that the federal government has enlisted and pays 10,000 troops in the Philippines, who serve under regular army officers. They are known as the "Philippine Scouts" and "Philippine Constabulary."

It can be remedied in one of three ways:

First, by appealing from Judge Vaughan's decision and getting a reversal in the upper court; or,

Second, by repealing the law requiring members of the National Guard of Hawaii to be citizens; or,

Third, by amending the naturalization law, so as to permit Filipinos to become naturalized.

The easiest, simplest and quickest method is the second above enumerated, viz: by enacting a law by which a Filipino may, without becoming naturalized, serve the government by fighting for it as a member of the National Guard of Hawaii, a privilege which is already accorded him in the navy and the Philippines.

Which remedy is to be pursued must be decided by the authorities.

Whatever is done should be done promptly, so as to end as speedily as possible a most unsatisfactory and unjust condition of affairs.

A Forcible Reminder

GARDEN ISLAND—At the end of last week Kauai had another most forcible reminder of the need of a breakwater and safe harbor at Nawiliwili. On Friday the Kinau came in from the Waimea side. Something like a hundred passengers, the Christmas mail for Honolulu and numerous packages were waiting on the wharf. Sea conditions were such that the steamer's boats could not reach the shore. An effort was made to put into Ahukini and there pick up the passengers and mail, but even that was found impracticable, so the steamer pulled out for Honolulu, leaving everything behind.

Saturday afternoon the steamer Mikahala appeared off port and attempted to take on mail and passengers. The first trial was with a boat load of baggage for passengers. The boat was swamped when about half way out and a great deal of valuable personal property is still at the bottom of the bay. The steamer then pulled out and went to Koloa, which happened to be somewhat sheltered from the prevailing high seas, and there took on passengers and mail.

Incidents of this sort bring to our attention the absolutely intolerable conditions under which we are trying to work, and the necessity of a breakwater and safe harbor at Nawiliwili. We simply must have better facilities. Every resident of Kauai having a friend in Congress should write a letter to that friend this week urging him to support the bill introduced by Kuhio on December 11 for the Nawiliwili breakwater and harbor; and if the appropriation fails this time we should, perhaps, bond the county and put through some sort of a harbor plan of our own selves.

Booze During Nineteen Sixteen

NINETEEN SIXTEEN was a satisfactory one for King Alcohol in Hawaii. He celebrated the coming of 1917 last night with nine brutal murders to his credit; three suicides for which he has undisputed claim; nine deaths by violence or accident directly engineered by him; nine shootings, stabbings and attempts otherwise to murder by persons infuriated by drink; several riots; two score wives so beaten up by drunken husbands that their cases attracted even the attention of the police, and half a hundred crimes that landed the ones the courts found guilty in the penitentiary.

It was a thoroughly satisfactory year. Friends and patrons of his saloons to the number of thirteen hundred and seven were booked at the police station in Honolulu, and almost an equal number appeared for various drunken misdemeanors and crimes in the magistrates' courts of the other islands. The Honolulu arrests were for drunkenness, assault and battery, profanity, affray and violations of the liquor laws.

In the divorce court of Honolulu, wherein reports Judge Whitney, booze figures directly or indirectly in practically every divorce petition. King Alcohol maintained a record of one case for every week day since January 1, 1916.

Nineteen seventeen opens, however, with King Alcohol attempting a brave showing, but shaking at the knees. His downfall in the Territory of Hawaii is fast approaching. Two of the biggest firms handling booze in wholesale have just announced their intentions of closing out that branch of their business. The stock of the Honolulu Brewery, which opened the month of December at a selling price of \$20.25, closed on Saturday with a selling price of \$16.00, a shrinkage in value of more than twenty per cent. These are the indicating straws. Public sentiment in the Islands is rapidly crystallizing in favor of the elimination of the business that is doing more to fill the jails, keep the hangman busy, crowd the graveyards and bring misery, want and tribulation to the people than all other causes combined.

Congress appears to be on the eve of enacting for Hawaii a federal prohibition law, behind which will be the force of the United States government, uninfluenced by considerations of local politics.

King Alcohol and his satellites see the handwriting on the wall.

Prohibition before January 1, 1918, is one of the probabilities.

"Grinding Face of the Poor"

HAWAII has one practice that smacks tyranny, namely, the practice of penalizing the non-payment of taxes to the extent of ten per cent, with other costs as "trimmings."

This hits the small man but not the corporation; the kuleana-owner but not the big land owner, for the very simple reason that corporations, big ranchers, planters and merchants pay their taxes, on the dot and when due.

It costs the government practically nothing above the cost of accounting to collect ninety per cent of the revenues. The other ten per cent being paid by individuals, small merchants, small farmers and citizens to whom "tax money" means an abnormally high ratio of total earnings for the year. It is this "underdog" ten per cent of the tax payers that is penalized, by the addition of ten per cent overcharge; advertising costs; court costs; special levy and sheriff's sale, expenses, and by the additional surcharge of ten per cent interest on the sum due until paid.

Taxes are one of the items of cost of production which every large producer prepares to pay. Not so, however, the small taxpayer who neither keeps an exact account of income and expenditures nor accumulates liquid capital by means of which he can meet this extra burden.

The only reason why the small man has to pay this penalty is because when the tax is due they actually have not the money with which to pay.

Hence the penalizing of this class of taxpayers is "grinding the face of the poor." It is meanest personified.

In the words of Kahuna Nui, it is a case of "Hit 'im agen; him got no fren."

A three per cent penalty for the non-payment of taxes when due would be enough to deter any businessman from defaulting; while six per cent interest on over due taxes—the legal commercial interest rate ought to be sufficient.

When small taxpayers once get behind a year or two on their taxes, the only recourse is to die, emigrate, or go bankrupt. Any one of these alternatives is unpleasant.

Is there not some member of the legislature who will take this injustice up and remedy it by an appropriate amendment to the tax law?

The suggestion advanced by the Star-Bulletin that the invitation implied in the visit here of the delegation of Stockton High School students should not be allowed to go unaccepted and that there should be devised some means whereby there might be exchange visits, with students from Hawaii visiting the mainland and mainland students visiting here, is too good a suggestion to end in talk. Before the scheme can be taken up and carried out there are numerous details to be considered, but the main idea itself should be adopted by the community as a basis for further action.

BREVITIES

(From Saturday Advertiser.)

J. D. McVeigh, superintendent of the Molokai Settlement, has been appointed second magistrate of Kalawao.

George Freeland was yesterday appointed by the Governor a member of the industrial accident board of Maui to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of William Deotto.

Mrs. Mahalia Kamae, of Wailuku, Maui, died on Thursday in the local insane asylum and was buried yesterday in Kaneohe cemetery. She was fifty years old and a native of Hawaii.

The funeral of the late Clement M. Akaka, who died suddenly at his home, 1309 Houghtaling Road, Kalihi, last Thursday, was held yesterday afternoon, the interment being in Puna Cemetery.

Wade Warren Thayer announces that, having resigned as Secretary of Hawaii, the resignation taking effect at midnight tomorrow night, he will on January 1 resume the practice of law at his former office, 605-604 Stangenwald Building.

Melicio Vicens, laborer, residing at 27 Iwilei Road, born in the Philippines on December 31, 1892, yesterday filed in the office of George H. Clark, clerk of the federal court, his declaration of intention to become a naturalized citizen of the United States.

Natsu Ishii, a Japanese woman, was released by the federal immigration officials yesterday on payment of a bond in the sum of \$250 and the assurance that she will refrain from the practice of commercialized vice. The woman was released pending an appeal in a habeas corpus proceeding.

Under the firm name of Watson & Clemons, former associate justice E. M. Watson of the supreme court, and Judge Charles F. Clemons, who will retire from the federal court bench the middle of January, will open law offices on January 15 in the Kaukoelani Building, King Street. Judge Watson will, in addition to his firm work, continue as attorney for the public utilities commission.

Fifty dollars has settled the fine of \$367.50 imposed by the harbor authorities some years ago against Capt. A. W. Nelson, of the S. S. Korea, now master of the S. S. Ecuador. When the Korea arrived in Honolulu on February 24, 1915, there was found aboard twelve and a quarter pounds of opium which was not shown on the manifest. This is one of a number of similar cases instituted in the local federal court against Pacific steamers.

(From Sunday Advertiser.)

Three hundred children were made happy at the Christmas Tree exercises held Friday evening by Honolulu Lodge No. 1, Modern Order of Phoenix. Herbert, the three-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Lopes of 334A Aylmum Road, Kalihi, died yesterday morning and was buried during the afternoon in the Catholic cemetery, King Street.

Among the arrivals in the Claudine yesterday morning from Maui were Mrs. W. Mann and son Mrs. Maples, Miss N. J. Adams, Miss E. Kelahan, Miss M. McNehearts, Mrs. George Kawaenonaka, Miss Williams, Mrs. J. Coakett, Miss W. Rogers, Miss E. Damon, Mrs. A. Ko, and Mr. and Mrs. James Travens and child.

Wade Warren Thayer, whose resignation as Secretary of Hawaii takes effect at midnight tonight, and who will resume the practice of law, will devote part of his time to the office of the Secretary until the vacancy has been filled by President Wilson.

(From Monday Advertiser.)

The territorial grand jury will hold its last meeting of the 1916 term at two o'clock next Friday afternoon.

A meeting of the harbor board commissioners will be held at one-thirty on Wednesday afternoon in the basement of the Capitol.

News was received here yesterday of the death on December 30, last, in the Florence Ward Sanitarium, San Francisco, of Mrs. Rice McCarthy, mother of Miss Katherine McCarthy, of Honolulu. The deceased was a native of New York and sixty-two years old.

(From Tuesday Advertiser.)

William McKinley Lodge No. 8, Knights of Pythias, meets this evening for regular business.

Important business meeting of Excelsior Lodge No. 1, I. O. O. F., this evening at half-past seven o'clock.

The Hawaiian Humane Society will meet at nine-thirty o'clock Wednesday morning in the Library of Hawaii.

The Kaimuki Mother's Club will hold the weekly meeting of the organization tomorrow at noon in the Liliuokalani School.

Hawaiian Tribe No. 1, Order of Red Men, holds an important meeting this evening in San Antonio Hall, to which all members are requested to attend.

Dr. C. Fletcher Dole, known all over the United States and abroad for his interest and familiarity with the peace foundations of the world, will lecture Thursday evening in Cooke Hall on "Is Peace Practicable?"

The monthly meeting of the woman's board of missions will be held in the parlors of Central Union Church, this afternoon at half-past two o'clock. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

The opening session of the new term of the Y. M. C. A. night schools takes place tonight, when there will be given an opportunity for enrollment in twenty courses, mechanical and commercial subjects being those offered.

Prof. Ernest C. Webster, principal of the Kamehameha Schools, and Mrs. Webster, of Kalihi, welcomed at their home on Thursday the arrival of a daughter, who has been christened Marion Pauahi, the second name being given the child in honor of the late Princess Bernice Bishop, who endowed the big Kamehameha Schools.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER.

In buying a cough medicine for children, bear in mind that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the best for colds, croup and whooping cough, and that it contains no harmful drug. For sale by all dealers, Benson, Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.

PERSONALS

(From Saturday Advertiser.)

A daughter, who has been named Mary, was born on December 18, to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kahoouli, of 1412 Kauluwela Lane.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clarke of Hualapai Street, Kakahele, became the parents of a son last Saturday. The new arrival has been named George Kauluwela Lane.

Kapala Lakapu and Miss Louise Keiko Ahina, who were married on Christmas Day by Rev. J. H. Mathews, the witnesses being Rev. J. S. Kuni and Rev. J. H. Napapa.

With Rev. David C. Peters, minister of the Christian Church, officiating, Clifford Pitts and Miss Jennie Farm were married last Wednesday. The witnesses were Elizabeth Wilhelm Eli and Tim Tet Farm.

Jared G. Smith, the well known Kona tobacco planter, was returning from the Mauna Loa yesterday morning from West Hawaii and will spend the year-end with his family in the city. Mr. Smith will return to the Big Island next Tuesday.

Mrs. F. G. Correa of Wailuku, Kala, Maui, who visited in the city for some weeks past, returned in the Claudine yesterday to her Valley Island home. She was accompanied by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. P. M. Correa of this city, who will spend the New Year holidays in Maui.

(From Sunday Advertiser.)

A daughter, Ada Anolupa, was born last Friday to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel K. Bush, of 1760 Liliha Street.

Cyril O. Smith, principal of the Royal School, returned yesterday morning from Kaula, where he visited during the school vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anna Reid, of 1604 Gulick Avenue, Kalihi, welcomed on Friday the arrival of a daughter, who has been named Becky.

With Rev. Father Victorinus Claessen officiating, Antonio Soares of Wailuku, this island, and Miss Mary Lewis of this city were married yesterday at the Catholic Cathedral. The witnesses were William Ornellas and Ludvina Vieira Jesus.

(From Monday Advertiser.)

Mrs. William Seabury and Miss Seabury, of Punahoa, were arrivals in the Claudine yesterday morning from Maui.

Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Cox returned in the Claudine yesterday morning from Maui, where they spent the Christmas school vacation.

J. G. Pratt, Ben H. Vickers, H. Fessoth, S. A. Baldwin, George A. Lyon, J. Oveira, E. Lyon, P. Coakett and J. Bruns were among the arrivals in the Claudine yesterday morning from Maui.

John Holmberg, the architect, returned in the Claudine yesterday morning from Maui. He spent several months in Wailuku supervising the construction of the new Grand Hotel, the plans for which were prepared by him.

With Rev. Samuel K. Kamao, officiating, pastor of Kamehameha Church, Palama, officiating, Junia M. Kaiko and Mrs. Rose P. Aka were married yesterday. The witnesses were Keola Makini and Mrs. Daniel K. Pokipala.

(From Tuesday Advertiser.)

Miss Edith Dunn was a departing passenger in the Claudine for Maui, where she is to teach.

Arthur C. Alexander, of Alexander Baldwin, this city, left in the Claudine yesterday for Maui, where he will stay for a few days.

Revenue Returns

Show Prosperity of Island Territory

The unprecedented prosperity of Hawaii during the fiscal year of 1916 is reflected in the collections made by the internal revenue office, the figures of which are just made public.

The total collections in Hawaii by the department amounted to \$684,137.85, which was the largest amount ever collected here. The total collections by the internal revenue department for the whole United States were \$12,723,287.77, an increase of \$97,042,236.91 over the previous year.

It is the corporation income tax figures that especially demonstrate the prosperity of these islands. These figures show a gain of 71.6 per cent over the amount collected from the same source in 1915.

The corporations of Hawaii during 1916 paid total income taxes of \$341,938.37, as against \$198,635.07 in 1915.

The corporation earnings of Hawaii averaged twice as high as those of New York State. Here the corporation paid much more in taxes than did individuals, while the reverse was true in New York.

As regards individuals, there is one man in Hawaii—his name is not given by the internal revenue people—who has an annual income of between \$250,000 and \$300,000. Another has an income of between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

Eight persons in the Islands set an annual pittance of between \$100,000 and \$150,000; there are twelve whose incomes are between \$75,000 and \$100,000; thirteen whose incomes are between \$50,000 and \$75,000; twenty-two between \$40,000 and \$50,000; twenty between \$30,000 and \$40,000; twenty-two from \$25,000 to \$30,000; twenty-four from \$20,000 to \$25,000; forty-five from \$15,000 to \$20,000; seventy-two from \$10,000 to \$15,000; 234 from \$5,000 to \$10,000; 135 from \$4,000 to \$5,000, and 172 from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

This is a total of 781 individuals who paid in \$112,144.05 for the fiscal year of 1916, an average of \$143 each. New York averaged \$410 each.

The revenue figures show a falling off in the consumption of hard liquors, such as whisky and gin, and an increase in the consumption of beer. The department's figures indicate that on the mainland it is just the other way about.

Tobacco revenue returns during the year amounted \$9044.69.

London Denied Soldier Canard In Epistle To Friend

Just after his departure from the Islands last summer, Jack London once again was called upon to null the canard that attributes to him the statement that "being a soldier is the lowest aim in life." The letter from Jack London denying this statement and the letter attributed to him in which military life is attacked are now being used by navy recruiting officers as circulars. The letter attributed to London by those seeking to misrepresent the army and navy follows:

"Young Men: The lowest aim in your life is to become a soldier. The good soldier never tries to distinguish himself from wrong. He never thinks; never reasons; he only obeys. If he is ordered to fire on his fellow citizens, on his friends, on his neighbors, on his relatives, he obeys without hesitation. If he is ordered to fire down a crowded street when the poor are clamoring for bread, he obeys, and sees the gray hairs of age stained with red and the life tide gushing from the breasts of women, feeling neither remorse nor sympathy. If he is ordered off as a firing squad to execute a hero or benefactor, he fires without hesitation, though he knows the bullets will pierce the noblest heart that ever beat in human breast.

"A good soldier is a blind, heartless, soulless, murderous machine. He is not a man. He is not a brute; he brutes only kill in self defense. All that is human in him, all that is divine in him, all that constitutes the man has been sworn away when he took the enlistment roll. His mind, his conscience, aye, his very soul, are in keeping of his officer.

"No man can fall lower than a soldier—it is a depth beneath which we cannot go. Keep the boys out of the army. It is hell.

"Down with the army and navy. We don't need killing institutions. We need life-giving institutions.

"JACK LONDON."

Here is London's answer:

"Glen Ellen, California, August 5, 1916.

"Lieut. James D. Willson,

"Navy Recruiting Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"Dear Mr. Willson:

"In reply to yours of June 23, 1916: I have just returned from Hawaii, last night, hence you will understand my delay in replying.

"In reply to your inquiry I will state that I never wrote a line of this 'Good Soldier' canard. For years and years I have been denying the authorship of it, in England, in the United States, everywhere, by personal letter, by interview, by telegraph and by cable. There is scarcely a mail that comes to me which does not bring me a letter like yours, wanting to know whether or not I wrote the canard. As far as I can trace the history of this, it was originally published and circulated in Germany, and later on was brought over to the United States, translated and circulated with my name attached. And from there it has spread over the rest of the world. All you have to do is to read my books and newspaper work to find that for the newspapers I have done only war correspondence and prizefighting, and that in my books I am hailed by the critics as the father of red-blooded fiction.

"My opinion is that it behooves a country or nation like the United States to maintain a reasonable preparedness for defense against any country or nation that at any time may go out upon the way of war to carve earth space for itself out of weaker and unprepared nations.

"The dressed flea which you gave Mrs. London in Vera Cruz are a source of wonder and amusement to our friends to whom we show them.

"Remember me to Captain Beach and Doctor Demme when you see them.

"Sincerely yours,

"JACK LONDON."

ALL SAMPANS ARE

IN FOR NEW YEAR'S

"Yokohama or Honolulu?" asked visitors at the Ewa basin of the harbor yesterday morning where nearly every sampan of the local fleet had crowded into the sampan slip while its crew rejoiced in the beginning of a new year up town.

Every sampan flew the Japanese flag and had the customary sheet of evergreen tied to its mast, without which no New Year's decorations are complete in Japanese eyes. The scene was purely Oriental. There was no trace of America about it at all and the American flag was conspicuous by its absence.

OLSEN IS OFF PORT

FROM ANTOFAGASTA

Arriving yesterday at one o'clock in the afternoon from Antofagasta, the four-masted schooner William B. Olsen is now off port undergoing fumigation. She will enter at nine o'clock this morning and probably be docked at Pier 17. The master refused a pilot and came to the anchorage himself, shortly before the liner Venezuela sailed and the Siberia Maru came in.

It was then found that the Olsen had anchored directly across the mouth of the channel. A pilot was sent out to her and her master explained that he had mistaken can buoy number two for the bell buoy. The schooner did not change her anchorage, there being just about room enough to move the big liners in and out one at a time.

SEAMEN'S LANGUAGE TEST IS PROBLEM

Made Old Owners Give Up China

Doesn't Bother New Owners

When the La Follette seamen's law was passed it was assumed, by the leaders of the Sailors' Union that the clause requiring that at least 75 per cent of a ship's crew in each department should understand the language of the officers would put an end to the employment of Chinese, Japs, etc., not only on board American vessels but on board foreign vessels coming to the ports of the United States. This was the expectation also of the officials of the old Pacific Mail Steamship Company, who withdrew their liners from the transpacific route as soon as the La Follette law went into operation.

The steamer China, formerly of the Pacific Mail, which is now in port here, taken over by a Chinese company, is being operated by China and Japan by a Chinese crew, whose members were put through some kind of a language test at San Francisco. Recently Chinese seamen, stewards and firemen were procured for ships of the present Pacific Mail Company, which did not have a very comfortable time with white crews in experimental service to the Orient.

The leaders of the Sailors' Union protest that the government is not properly enforcing the law. It is quite possible that the resentment caused by the withdrawal of the great Pacific Mail ships and the hauling down of the flag from Oriental routes had an effect upon the powers that be in Washington.

But if Oriental labor is to be excluded from American ships, which compete with foreign ships, employing Oriental labor, the one fair, honest, American way is to have the government step in and grant bounties or subsidies that will offset the difference between American and Oriental wages, says the Journal. It is so unjust as to be confiscatory for the government to compel American ships to ply across the Pacific with \$50 a month men when \$8 a month men are freely available of their competition. Under normal conditions such a difference in the wage rate and further difference in the maintenance rate make competition impossible.

To substitute white crews for Oriental crews on the five steamers of the old Pacific Mail would have cost about \$600,000 annually. Of course, this was a burden that could not possibly be borne. If the government wants white men, Americans, to serve on transpacific liners because they would be available for the naval reserve in war, then let the government be frank and honorable about it, and pay a subsidy of \$600,000 a year to equalize the difference. If the Sailors' Union were made up nine-tenths of Americans and one-tenth of foreigners, instead of nine-tenths foreigners and one-tenth Americans, they would have demanded this from the Democratic congress which enacted the La Follette law. There might then be some reason and justice in the proposition.

GOVERNMENT WARNS

SHIPPING TO TRY

FOR "SAFETY FIRST"

A letter which lacks the usual governmental cut-and-driedness is being distributed by Secretary Redfield of the Department of commerce to all shipping men, dealing with the danger of fires at sea. The secretary says:

Recent developments while investigating casualties occasioned by fire on vessels at sea, and particularly on those vessels that carry both cargo and passengers, lead the Department to issue this letter of admonition and caution to all concerned regarding the great care which should be exercised by shippers and carriers in packing, shipping, and stowing inflammable or combustible materials, whether in restricted or exempted lists or not, as it has been most clearly demonstrated that fire, the most dreaded of all the hazards, can be averted and prevented by the exercise of possible precautions.

It has been found that roofing paper, in each roll of which was a can of canister of paint with benzene as an ingredient, was carried in large quantities in the lower hold of a steamer which was recently destroyed by fire, entailing a money loss of nearly \$1,000,000, but fortunately no loss of life.

Explorers, the inflammable properties and dangerous character of which are well known, is carried under various conditions in large quantities in the lower holds of steamers, in contact or in close proximity to other cargo easy of ignition, thereby setting up a condition which at once invites danger and possible disaster.

Acids which should be restricted to deck stowage have been found in both the lower decks and lower hold, the serious consequences of which should be realized by all who accept acids for transportation.

These are but few of many examples of dangerous practices which should be promptly and permanently corrected with a firm determination to carry out the necessary principle of "safety first" at sea. This cautionary letter is sent with the sincere hope that the lessons taught by experience may not be lost upon those